

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5969

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C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 1290

E.O. 11652: GS

TAGS: PINT CH

SUBJECT: PEKING UNIVERSITY DEVELOPING CAMPAIGN AGAINST TENG
HSIAO-PING

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. A PEKING UNIVERSITY SPOKESMAN TOLD CODEL SCOTT THAT STUDENTS ARE STUDYING THE IDEOLOGICAL CONNECTION BETWEEN TENG HSIAO-PING AND DISGRACED CCP CO-FOUNDER CHEN TU-HSIU. NEW POSTERS ELABORATING THIS THEME HAVE GONE UP ON CAMPUS. THE SPOKESMAN ALSO CONFIRMED THAT MINISTER OF EDUCATION CHOU JUNG-HSIN DIED OF ILLNESS. END SUMMARY.

2. IN THE COURSE OF A STANDARD BRIEFING TO CODEL SCOTT ON PEKING UNIVERSITY'S HISTORY ORGANIZATION, ENROLLMENT AND POLITICAL ACTIVITIES, UNIVERSITY REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN HUANG HSIN-PAI MENTIONED THAT STUDENTS ARE CURRENTLY DEVELOPING A NEW THEME IN THE ANTI-TENG CAMPAIGN. TENG IS SAID TO BE "EXACTLY IN THE LINE OF CHEN TU-HSIU" (A CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY FOUNDER CRITICIZED AND EXPELLED IN THE 1930'S). CHEN'S "DUAL REVOLUTION THEORY" INVOLVING TRANSITION FROM BOURGEOIS TO SOCIALIST REVOLUTION IS BEING STUDIED AS A PRECURSOR OF TENG'S OWN PLATFORM.

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DEVELOPING THIS NOTION (BUT WITHOUT ELABORATING ON THE TIE-IN

TO CHEN TU-HSIU), VICE CHAIRMAN HUANG SAID THAT THE STUDENTS WERE FOCUSING THEIR CRITICISM ON THE "THEORY OF PUTTING THE ECONOMY FIRST." DELEGATION MEMBERS WERE SUBSEQUENTLY INVITED TO PHOTOGRAPH NEW WALLPOSTERS CAPTIONED "RESOLUTELY CRITICIZE THE ECONOMISM OF TENG HSIAO-PING." THE DELEGATION LATER SAW THE SAME SLOGAN AT A PEKING FACTORY.

3. COMMENT: PEKING UNIVERSITY (ALONG WITH TSINGHUA UNIVERSITY) HAS BEEN A BREEDING GROUND FOR NEW POLITICAL CAMPAIGNS AND THEMES. BOTH UNIVERSITIES SPEARHEADED THE ATTACK AGAINST TENG LAST FALL AND WILL PRESUMABLY CARRY THE TENG-CHEN ANALOGY INTO THE CENTRAL MEDIA BEFORE LONG. SINCE THE ISSUE OF TENG'S PARTY MEMBERSHIP REMAINS CONTENTIOUS, IT IS POSSIBLE THAT PEKING UNIVERSITY IS LAYING THE IDEOLOGICAL GROUNDWORK FOR EXPULSION OF TENG BY DRAWING A DETAILED COMPARISON WITH THE DISCREDITED AND EXPELLED CHEN TU-HSIU.

4. VICE CHAIRMAN HUANG ALSO CONFIRMED THAT FORMER MINISTER OF EDUCATION CHOU JUNG-HSIN HAD "DIED OF ILLNESS DURING THE COURSE OF THE CAMPAIGN" TO CRITICIZE TENG. HUANG RECITED A LITANY OF CHOU'S ALLEGED SINS:

--HE WISHES TO NEGATE THE RESULTS OF THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION, OPPOSING ADMISSION OF "UNQUALIFIED" WORKERS, PEASANTS, AND SOLDIERS TO THE UNIVERSITY;

--HE SAID THAT CONCENTRATION ON IDEOLOGY DILUTES PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS;

--HE WISHES TO GO BACK TO THE "IVORY TOWER" OLD DAYS IN EDUCATION; AND

--HE SAW UNIVERSITIES AS INSTRUMENTS FOR THE TRANSMISSION OF KNOWLEDGE AND ACCORDINGLY WISHED TO RELY UPON "BOURGEOIS PROFESSORS."

5. HUANG ALSO PROVIDED CURRENT APPROXIMATE FIGURES ON ENROLLMENT AND STAFFING. PEKING UNIVERSITY HAS A FACULTY OF 2000, AN ENROLLMENT OF 5000, AND AN ENTERING CLASS (SPRING SEMESTER) OF 2500. IN ALL OF CHINA, HUANG SAID THAT APPROXIMATELY 200,000 PERSONS NOW ENTER UNIVERSITIES ANNUALLY.
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